

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 EUR-08 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 DODE-00

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0589

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0391

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN NOVEMBER
5, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE NOVEMBER 5 INFORMAL SESSION
OF VIENNA MBFR TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY
THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY
SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK,
AND GDR REP OESER. THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WERE THE
ALLIED PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE ON A DEFINITION
OF GROUND FORCES AND EXCHANGE DATA AND THE EASTERN INITIAL
STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL. ON DATA EXCHANGE, ALLIED REPS
POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR POSITION ON
REDUCTIONS, THEY WERE WILLING TO HAVE RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE
OF DATA ON BOTH GROUND AND AIR FORCE TOTALS. AFTER

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CONSULTATION WITH HIS PACT COLLEAGUES, KHLESTOV RESPONDED

WITH STANDARD SOVIET POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF DATA UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET AND ON THE KIND OF FORCES TO BE REDUCED. EAST DID NOT DEVELOP ANY NEW POINTS ON INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL.

2. UK REP LED OFF WITH A COMPLAINT ABOUT FURTHER EASTERN PRESS LEAKS ON CONTENT OF EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL. HE SAID PERSISTENCE OF THIS PRACTICE WOULD COMPEL ALLIES TO RESPOND AND LEAD TO PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS. UK REP THEN REVIEWED WESTERN SUGGESTION FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A COMMON DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND PRESENTED REASONS WHY IT MADE SENSE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION OF DATA AT THIS STAGE OF THE TALKS. IN REVIEWING THE POINT THAT THE AGGREGATE AIR FORCE MANPOWER TOTALS ON THE TWO SIDES WERE VERY NEARLY EQUAL, THOUGH WITH A SLIGHT WARSAW PACT SUPERIORITY, UK REP ADDED THAT, IF EAST DISAGREED WITH THIS EVALUATION, ALLIES WOULD BE PREPARED ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS TO EXCHANGE AGGREGATE AIR FORCE TOTALS FOR BOTH SIDES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION BASE WOULD NOT NARROW THE OVERALL MANPOWER DISPARITY WHICH CONTINUED TO BE IN THE GROUND FORCES.

3. FOLLOWING UK REP'S PRESENTATION, KHLESTOV REQUESTED AN UNUSUALLY LONG BREAK OF OVER HALF AN HOUR FOR CONFERENCE WITH HIS WARSAW PACT COLLEAGUES. ON RETURN, HE GAVE THE STANDARD ANSWER THAT THE EAST WAS NOT READY TO DISCUSS DATA UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN PREVIOUS RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET AND OF INCLUSION OF ALL FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER UK REP'S STATEMENT MEANT THAT WEST WAS NOW READY TO REDUCE ALL FORCES IN THE AREA. ALLIED REPS POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD NOT CHANGED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO REDUCTION OF AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES. BUT SINCE THEY HAD ALREADY OFFERED TO EXCHANGE DATA ON GROUND FORCE TOTALS AND NOW HAD SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF DATA ON AIR FORCE TOTALS, THESE EXCHANGES WOULD IN FACT COVER ALL ARMED FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE AREA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NAVY. THEY SAID IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BOTH SIDES AND

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WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR POSITION ON OTHER SUBJECTS TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF DATA NOW. KHLESTOV ASKED NO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DETAILS OF WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR NEW REVISED DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, CLAIMING IT WAS UP TO WEST TO CORRECT INACCURACIES IN THEIR OWN FIGURES.

4. STRULAK BROUGHT DISCUSSION BACK TO THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE WEST HAD GIVEN

THIS PROPOSAL CAVALIER TREATMENT AND HAD NOT EVEN ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. UK REP THEN COMPARED THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE AND COMMITMENTS ON TIMING AND AMOUNTS OF REDUCTIONS WITH THE UNCHANGED ORIGINAL EASTERN REQUIREMENT THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON AMOUT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS BEFORE ANY REDUCTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE. THE GDR REP CLAIMED THAT ALLIED PROPOSAL OF A COMMITMENT BY THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG TO REDUCE TO A COMMON CEILING IN A SECOND PHASE WAS NOT A GENUINE OBLIGATION AND EVADED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED ON DURING THE PRELIMINARY TALKS. ON THE BASIS OF TALKING POINTS APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP, NETHERLANDS REP ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE SOVIET FIRST STEP PROPOSALS. KHLESTOV SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON THE NEXT OCCASION IN VIEW OF THE LATE HOUR.

5. THE NEXT SESSION WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12, 1974.
END SUMMARY.RESOR

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